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## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain, RADM Harold L. Robinson, deputy chief of Navy chaplains for Reserve matters.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, keep us always in awe of Your grandeur and Your great love for us. You are creator of heaven and Earth, yet You have created us in Your own image. Though we are creatures of clay and dust, You have shared Your spirit with us. We are conscious, able to distinguish good from evil, virtue from vice, selflessness from selfishness. Though these contend for mastery of our lives and we complain of the struggle, let us recall that Your gift of choice is the grandeur and greatness of our humanity. When we choose well and wisely, the hosts rejoice with the psalmist and declare: You have made us just a little less than divine and crowned us with glory and honor.

We pray today for all Your creatures. May peace and good will obtain among all the inhabitants of all lands, most especially our own. We pray fervently for our great Nation and for all whom the people have set in authority. Guide and bless this Chamber and the Senators who here serve You. May each of them be enlightened with Your wisdom and sustained with Your love.

We pray, too, for those who serve us in harm's way: sailors, soldiers, marines, airmen, and coastguardsmen who willingly sacrifice the protection and comfort of home and family to defend our safety and our security. We pray also for their loved ones left at home, family and friends whose daily vigil is the worry for their warrior's well-being. Eternal God, we pray for warrior and worrier alike. Keep them under the protecting shadow of Your wing.

Dear God, make each of us more worthy messengers of Your will, that together we might make real the ancient dream that justice shall flow down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream and our world be perfected under Your unchallenged rule.

Eternal God, bless us and protect us. Look favorably upon us and be gracious to us. Take notice of us and grant us the blessing of peace.

And let us join in saying Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 18, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 391

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding that H.R. 391 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 391) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to continue to insure, and to enter into commitments to insure, home equity conversion mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

### PARTY INSTITUTES

Mr. REID. Madam President, many years ago the Congress created the party institutes to do development work across the world, building democratic institutions from Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, to the Middle East. They have come such a long way in the time since they were created. Their workers serve in extremely tough and very dangerous situations and conditions. JOHN MCCAIN has been chairman of the International Republican Institute, and Madeleine Albright chairs the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. We appreciate so much the work and service both these institutes perform throughout the world in developing and creating democracies.

I am so sad to report that yesterday in Baghdad a convoy carrying a team of NDI employees was attacked and four NDI employees were killed, including one American. This tragedy is a reminder that we have sacrifices of all kinds being made on behalf of democracy across the world. The Nation mourns the losses that occur in Iraq on

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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